

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2922

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 2137

HONG KONG FOR DAS GLEYSTEN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, ASEAN, U.S., CH, TW, VM, MY

SUBJECT: MALAYSIAN VIEWS ON REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

1. EA DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY GLEYSTEN, ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADOR, CALLED ON MFA SECRETARY GENERAL ZAKARIA MARCH 13. IN RESPONSE TO GLEYSTEN'S EXPRESSED INTEREST IN MALAYSIA'S CURRENT VIEW OF THE REGION AND OF ITS RELATIONS WITH COUNTRIES BEYOND THE REGION, ZAKARIA MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. ALL ASEAN COUNTRIES HAD THE COMMON OBJECTIVE OF STRIVING FOR GREATER COHESION AND ECONOMIC GROWTH WITHIN ASEAN.

B. ALL ASEAN COUNTRIES HAD A FURTHER COMMON OBJECTIVE OF PROMOTING PEACE AND STABILITY IN THE REGION, AND ALL LENT THEIR SUPPORT TO THE CONCEPT OF A ZONE OF PEACE, FREEDOM AND NEUTRALITY (ZOPFAN).

C. MALAYSIA, FOR ITS PART, SOUGHT TO EXIST WITHIN A STABLE ENVIRONMENT AND THUS, AMONG OTHER THINGS, SOUGHT TO

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DEVELOP GOOD RELATIONS WITH INDOCHINA. THE GOM FELT THE RESPONSE OF THE INDOCHINA COUNTRIES WAS QUITE GOOD, CONSIDERING THEIR INITIAL HOSTILITY AND SUSPICION OF ASEAN. ZAKARIA CITED THE VISITS OF CAMBODIAN VICE PREMIER AND FOREIGN MINISTER IENG SARY LAST YEAR AND VISITS OF SENIOR VIETNAMESE OFFICIALS, INCLUDING RECENT VISIT OF VIETNAMESE FOREIGN MINISTER TRINH.

D. MALAYSIAN BELIEVED VIETNAM NOW RECOGNIZED ASEAN AS A BODY THAT MUST BE DEALT WITH, SO IT IS NOW PREPARED TO DEAL WITH EACH ASEAN COUNTRY. MALAYSIA, TOO, HAS TAKEN INITIATIVES TOWARD INDOCHINA, FOR EXAMPLE GOM FOREIGN MINISTER RITHAUDDEEN'S VISITS TO HANOI AND PHNOM PENH, AND MALAYSIA'S ACTIVE EFFORTS TO HELP VIETNAM REBUILD ITS AILING RUBBER INDUSTRY.

E. AT THE SAME TIME, MALAYSIA HAS MADE CLEAR TO THE INDOCHINA STATES THAT IT IS DETERMINED TO DEFEAT ITS OWN INTERNAL COMMUNIST INSURGENCY, AND THAT IT WILL NOT TOLERATE EXTERNAL INTERFERENCE IN ITS INTERNAL AFFAIRS. MALAYSIA DOES NOT BELIEVE ITS INTERNAL COMMUNIST PROBLEM PREVENTS IT FROM SEEKING GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE COMMUNIST STATES OF THE REGION.

F. AS FOR MALAYSIAN-CHINESE RELATIONS, THE GOM HAS FOUND NO EVIDENCE OF INCREASED PRC MATERIAL SUPPORT FOR THE MALAYSIAN COMMUNISTS, ALTHOUGH THE PRC HAS NOT STOPPED ITS MORAL SUPPORT, E.G., RADIO BROADCASTS. WHENEVER THE PRC MAKES SOME GESTURE OF SUPPORT FOR THE MALAYSIAN COMMUNISTS, THE GOM MAKES A POINT OF TELLING THE PRC THAT SUCH GESTURES DO NOT PRODUCE GOOD RELATIONS. ACCORDING TO ZAKARIA, THE PRC "TAKES NOTE" OF THESE DEMARCHES AND, IF PRC SUPPORT DOES NOT INCREASE, THE GOM IS PREPARED TO GO ALONG WITH THE SITUATION. THE GOM HAS THE IMPRESSION THAT, FOR THE TIME BEING, THE PRC IS CONTENT TO SEE MALAYSIA STABLE AND UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF NO OUTSIDE POWER. THIS MEETS
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THE PRC'S CURRENT CONCERNS REGARDING THE USSE, AND MALAYSIA IS PREPARED TO ACCEPT THAT SITUATION.

G. WITH REFERENCE TO THE RECENT PRC STATEMENTS ABOUT OVERSEAS CHINESE, THE GOM IS WATCHING THE SITUATION REGARDING ITS OWN CHINESE COMMUNITY. SO FAR, THE PRC EMBASSY IN KUALA LUMPUR HAS NOT BEEN VERY ACTIVE IN THE LOCAL CHINESE COMMUNITY. THE CURRENT PRC ACROBATIC TEAM IS THE FIRST CULTURAL SHOW TO COME TO MALAYSIA.

H. THE GOM DOES NOT EXPERIENCE ANY PRC PRESSURE ON THE TAIWAN ISSUE. THE PRC ONLY RAISES A QUESTION IF THEY SEE WHAT THEY THINK IS SOME EVIDENCE OF AN OFFICIAL GOM NOD TOWARDS TAIWAN, BUT THE PRC SEEMS TO IGNORE EXISTING GOM INFORMAL AND UNOFFICIAL LINKS WITH TAIWAN.

I. THE GOM IS QUITE SATISFIED WITH U.S. POLICY TOWARD EAST ASIA. IT WAS REASSURED BY SECRETARY VANCE'S SPEECH TO THE ASIA SOCIETY OF LAST JUNE, AND HAS TAKEN NOTE OF SECRETARY BROWN'S RECENT SPEECH ON THE STRATEGIC AND MILITARY RAMIFICATIONS OF U.S. EAST ASIA POLICY.

2. GLEYSTEN TOOK THE OCCASION OF THE CALL TO REVIEW U.S. POLICY TOWARD CHINA. HE ALSO EXPRESSED OUR APPRECIATION FOR GOM PROBLEMS REGARDING INDOCHINA REFUGEES, AND EMPHASIZED THAT CONTINUED GOM COOPERATION WOULD BE

HELPFUL AS THE USG PROCEEDS TO WORK OUT A LONG-RANG PROGRAM FOR DEALING WITH THE PROBLEM. ZAKARIA WAS PLEASED THAT WE WERE AWARE OF THE PROBLEMS CREATED FOR MALAYSIA BY THE CONTINUING INFLUX OF REFUGEES, AND SAID THAT HE ANTICIPATED NO CHANGE IN THE GOM'S POLICY OF PROVIDING FIRST ASYLUM TO REFUGEES WHO COME ASHORE. GLEYSTEN ALSO EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE GOM'S CONTINUED COOPERATION IN THE IMPORTANT FIELD OF NARCOTICS. FINALLY, GLEYSTEN REITERATED OUR HOPE THAT THE ASEAN COUNTRIES WOULD SEND MINISTERIAL-LEVEL REPRESENTATIVES TO WASHINGTON FOR THE NEXT ROUND OF THE US-ASEAN DIALOGUE, AS THIS WOULD HELP FOCUS U.S. PUBLIC AND CONGRESSIONAL ATTENTION ON U.S. EFFORTS TO SUPPORT ASEAN.

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